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OCA 88-1404
3 May 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Interview of Dewey Clarridge by House Judiciary Committee Staff

1. On 22 April 1988, Jim Dahl and Haydon Gregory, staffers from the Subcommittee on Crime of the House Judiciary Committee, interviewed Dewey Clarridge regarding his knowledge of drug trafficking by the Nicaraguan government or the Contras. The focus of the briefing concerned a Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) operation in June 1984 to photograph Nicaraguan government officials in Nicaragua loading cocaine onto a plane bound for the United States. The plane was piloted by a DEA informant, Barry Seal, and the hidden cameras were installed by the Agency on the plane in Miami.

2. During the briefing Dewey recalled being asked by DEA to install a hidden camera on the plane piloted by Barry Seal. Dewey stated that it was his understanding that the photographs would be given to DEA to use in a possible trial. The Agency's role in the entire operation was merely to support a law enforcement undertaking. Dewey recalls that one of the individuals photographed loading cocaine onto the plane was Federico Vaughan, an aide to the Nicaraguan Interior Minister.

3.

4. Dewey recalls that not long after obtaining the photographs of Nicaraguan government officials loading cocaine into the plane, a briefing was arranged by DEA in North's office. Dewey was present at the briefing, but cannot recall why he was present for the briefing; he did not know whether the DEA operation was over at the time of the briefing.

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6. Mr. Gregory noted that a few weeks after the briefing in North's office, the pictures were leaked to the Washington Times. Dewey stated that he did not know whether North or anyone on his staff leaked the pictures to the newspaper. Dewey did remember that Paula Hawkins used the pictures in her re-election effort.

7. Mr. Gregory also asked Dewey a series of questions dealing with allegations of Contra involvement with drug smuggling. Dewey responded that these allegations arose after he left the Latin American Division, and therefore he was not in a position to comment on the allegations.

8. [Redacted]

[Redacted] Legislation Division

Office of Congressional Affairs

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